

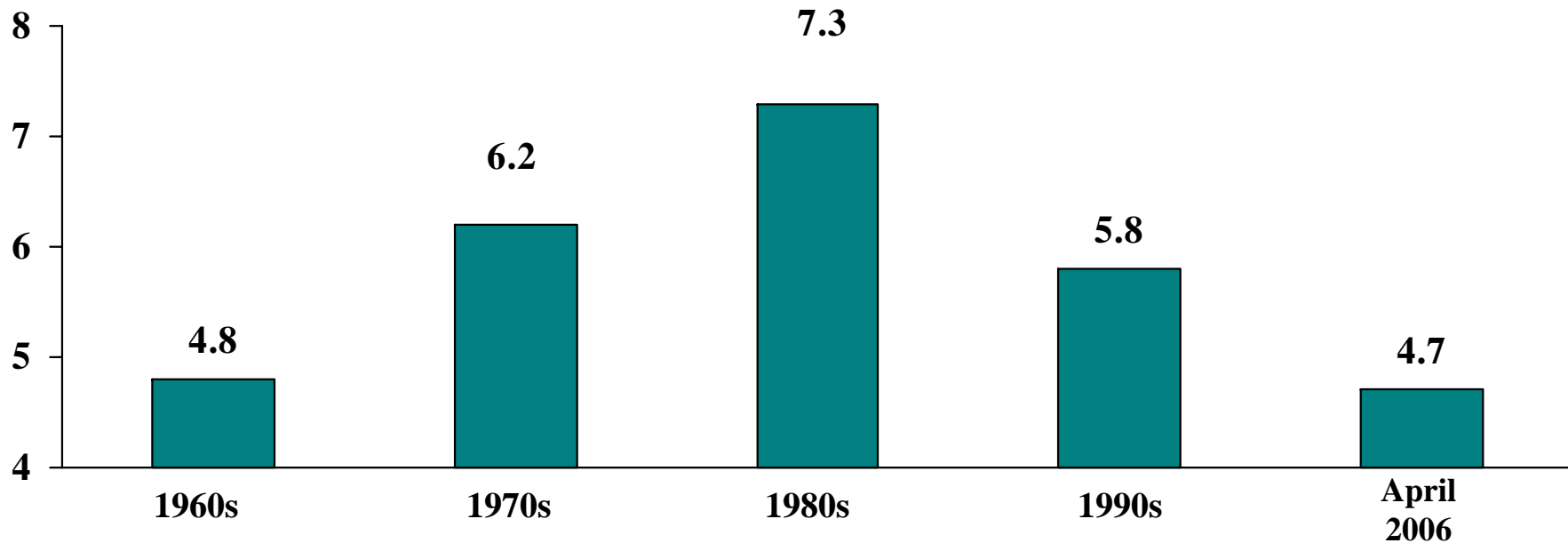
# **Republicans Have Created Jobs and Provided Help for the Unemployed**

**Committee on Ways and Means**

**May 2006**

# Today's Unemployment Rate Below Average For All of 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and 1990s

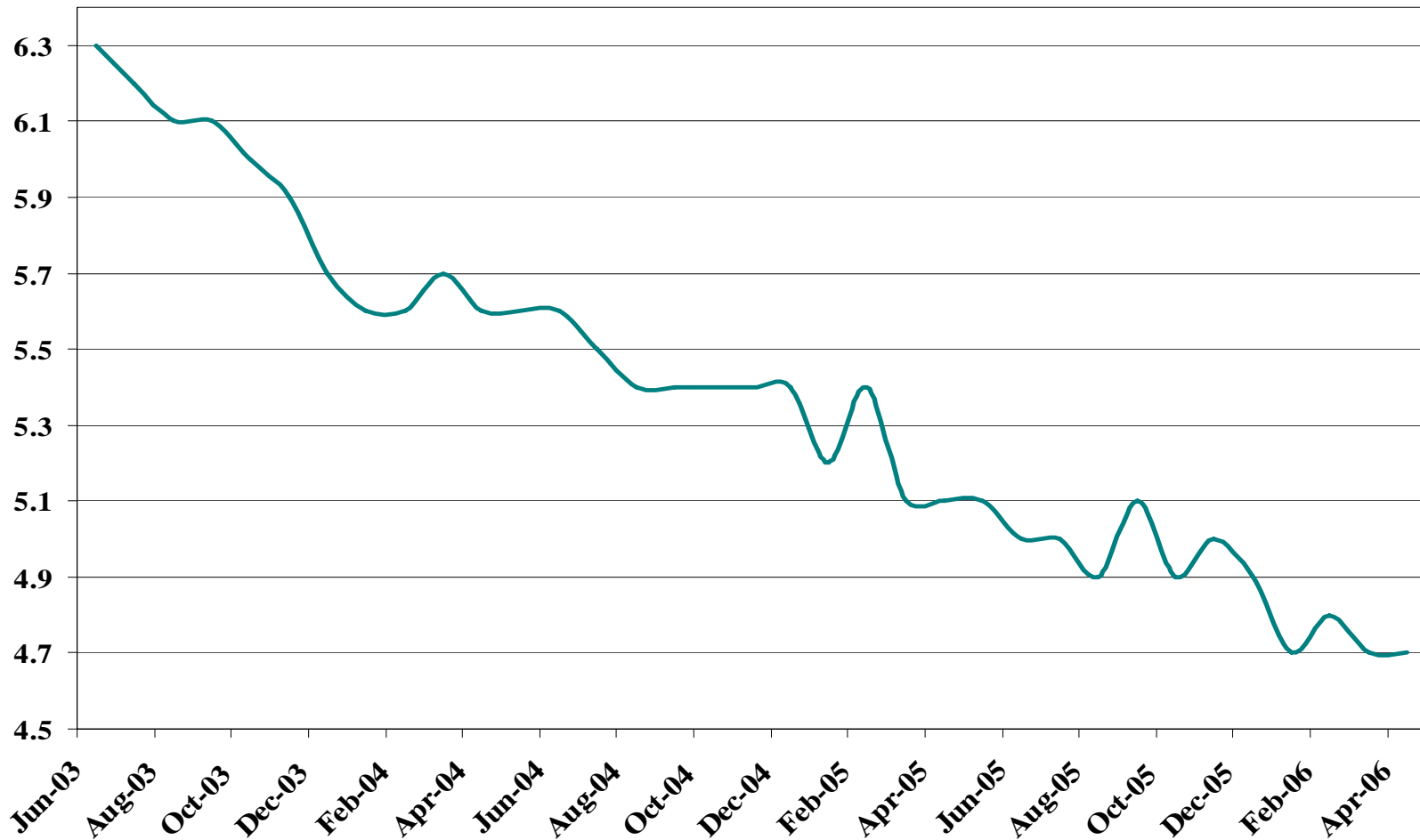
**Unemployment Rate: Recent Decades and Current**



*Source: U.S. Department of Labor*

# Unemployment Rate Dropping Sharply from June 2003 to Today

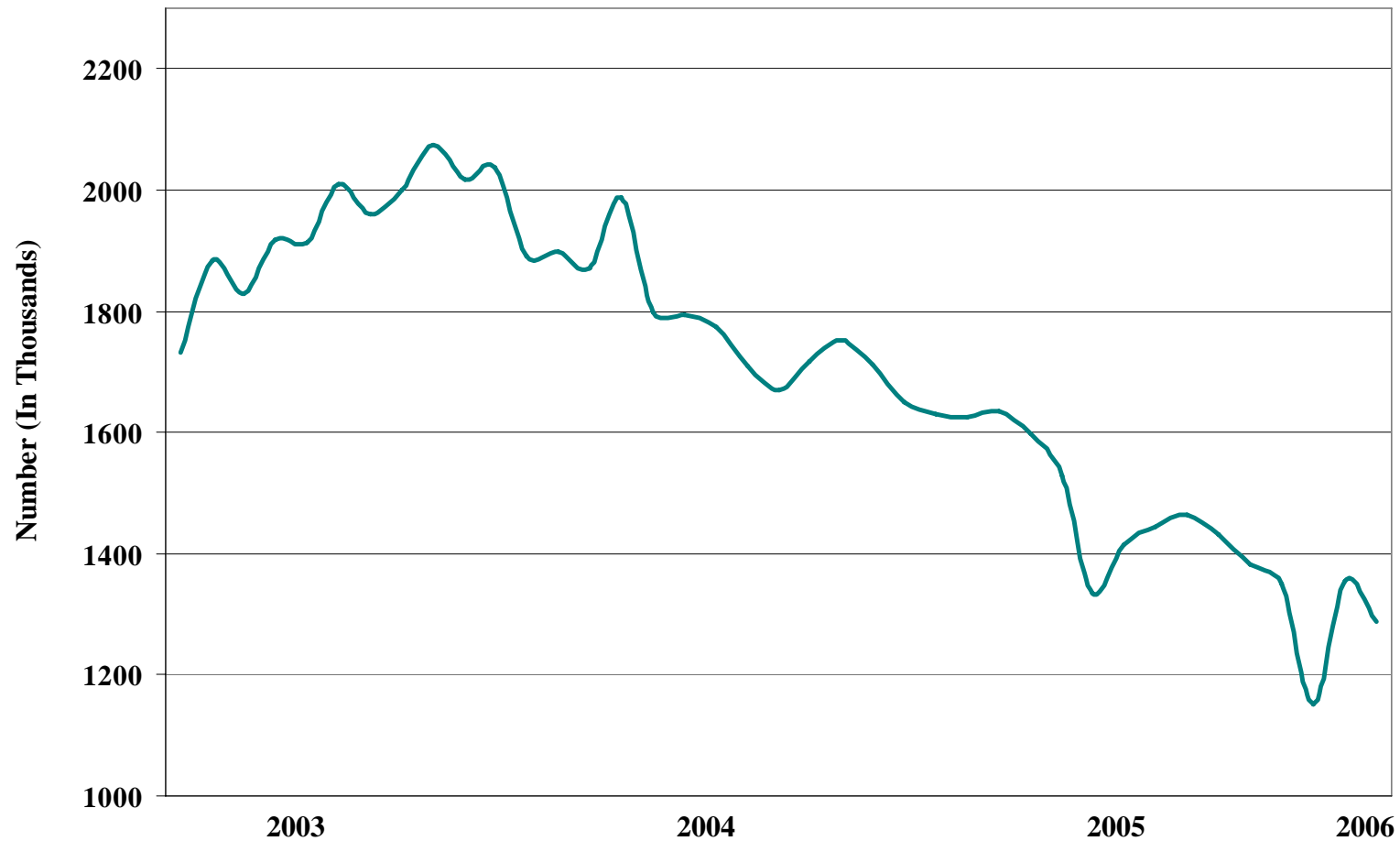
Number of Unemployed Has Fallen by 2.1 Million since June 2003



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

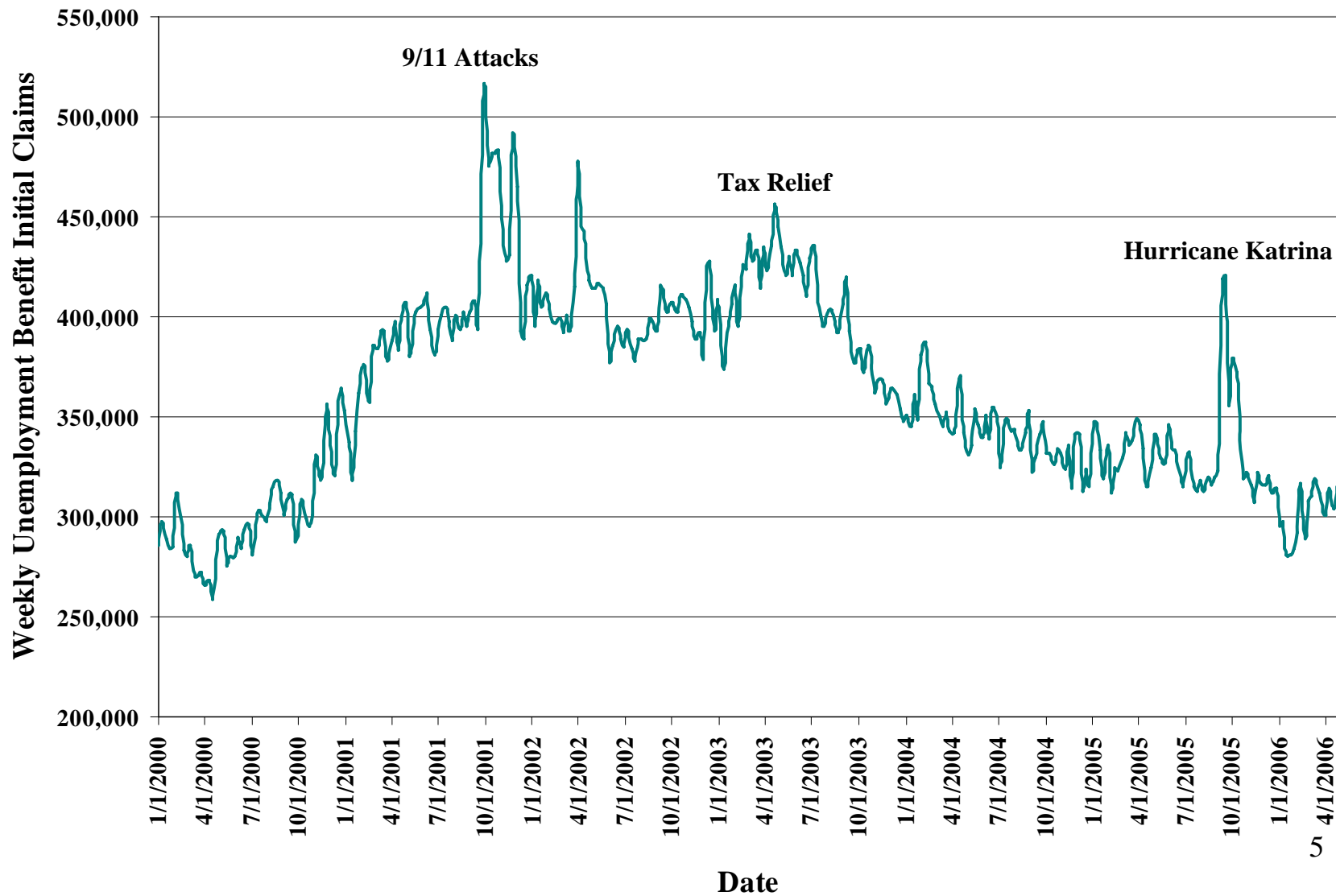
# Fewer Long-Term Unemployed Today

Number of Long-Term (27 Weeks and Over) Unemployed



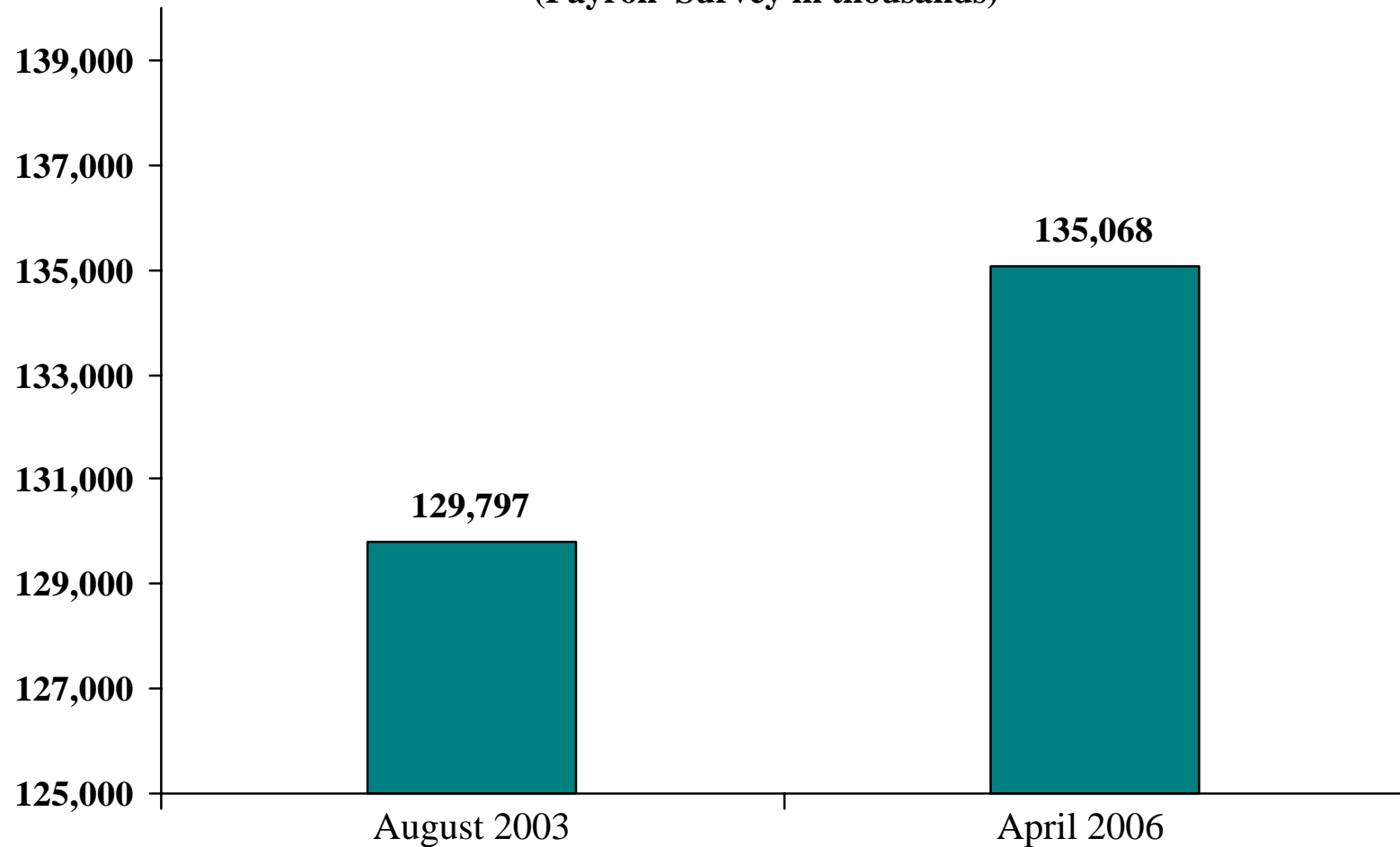
Source: U.S. Department of Labor

# Unemployment Benefit Initial Claims Back to Pre-Recession Levels



# More Than 5 Million Jobs Added, August 2003 to April 2006

(Payroll Survey in thousands)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

# **Special Help For Laid Off Workers, Including After Hurricane Katrina**

**In October 2005, Congress provided \$500 million for unemployment benefits for victims of Hurricane Katrina.**

- Funds helped AL, LA, and MS pay unemployment benefits.
- All states could use current federal funds to help Katrina victims.
- In March 2006, Congress provided an additional 3 months of special unemployment assistance (for a total of 9 months) for workers still laid off after Hurricane Katrina.

**In 2002-2004, as the economy struggled after the 2001 recession and terror attacks, Congress provided \$23 billion in special extended unemployment benefits to 8 million workers.**

- Congress also gave states \$8 billion to help pay regular unemployment benefits and keep payroll taxes down.

# States *Still* Have \$3 Billion in Federal Funds for the Unemployed

In March 2002, the *Job Creation Act* provided a one-time special distribution of \$8 billion to state accounts to help them assist their unemployed.

